GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4834
ANSWERED ON:19.04.2001
FUNDS FOR AGRICULTURE
KINJARAPU YERRANNAIDU

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

he steps taken for increasing food production and gearing up the financial sector for more funds for agriculture?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD Y. NAIK)

Government is implementing various Central and Centrally Sponsored Schemes forenhancing the production and productivity in agriculture and allied activities and also to facilitate availability of agricultural inputs and agriculture credit to the farmers. A regionally differentiated strategy is being developed to maximize production and productivity through the Macro Management Mode of agricultural planning, launching of a Technology Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture in the North Eastern Region and formulation of a Scheme for On-Farm Water Management in Eastern India.The Rural InfrastructureDevelopment Fund (RIDF) has been constituted in NABARD for advancing loans to StateGovernments and State Owned Corporations for quick completion of on-going projects relating to medium & minor irrigation, soil conservation, watershed management and other forms of rural infrastructure. The corpus is being raised to Rs.5000/- crore during thebudget year 2001-02 and the rate of interest lowered from 11.5% to 10.5%. Steps have also been taken for simplification of lending procedures and strengthening institutional mechanism. A series of measures have been taken for providing timely and adequate credit to the rural sector. 18% of net bank credit has been earmarked for agriculture.